

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SNM-02 DEAE-00 H-01 PA-01 AID-05

RSC-01 /033 W

----- 123726

R 151823Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5744

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 15008

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TH, BM

SUBJECT: FILM ON OPIUM WAR

REF: STATE 251677

1. ADRIAN COLWELL'S TV FILM, "OPIUM WAR LORDS," WAS SHOWN ON INDEPENDENT BRITISH TV DURING WEEK OF OCTOBER 7. EMBASSY OFFICERS WHO SAW FILM AGREE THAT IT IS AN INTERESTING ACCOUNT OF NARCOTICS PRODUCTION AND TRAFFICKING ACTIVITIES BY VARIOUS BURMESE DISSIDENT GROUPS. THOUGH FILM GENERALLY WELL BALANCED, COLWELL ENDS HIS NARRATION BY DISCUSSING THE LACK OF INTEREST ON PART US OFFICIALS EMBASSY BANGKOK IN HIS APPROACH ON BEHALF OF THE SHAN STATE ARMY PLAN TO SELL OPIUM TO USG, PER PARA 3 REFTTEL. FURTHER, HE IMPLIES THAT USG SOMEHOW INVOLVED IN CAPTURE OF THE BURMESE OPIUM WAR LORD IN NORTHERN THAILAND WHO HAD INITIATED SSA PROPOSAL. THAILAND LATER EXTRADITED THIS WAR LORD TO BURMA WHERE HE HAS SUPPOSEDLY BEEN IMPRISONED. IT WAS DISTINCTLY IMPLIED THAT USG REFUSED CONSIDER SSA PLAN OUT OF DEFERENCE TO CONCERNS OF BURMESE GOVERNMENT WHICH CONSIDERS THE SHANS REBELS. COPIES OF PRESS REPORTS ON COLWELL'S FILM WILL BE SUBMITTED BY AIRGRAM NOVEMBER 15.

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SPIERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, FILMS, OPIUM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LONDON15008
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740330-1056
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741140/aaaabhsu.tel
Line Count: 62
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 251677
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUN 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FILM ON OPIUM WAR
TAGS: SNAR, TH, BM, (COWELL, ADRIAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005